

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: PANAMA DELEGATE CITES INTELLIGENCE AGENT CHARGE

1. DURING SECOND SESSION OF OAS PROGRAM/BUDGET COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS US OFFER TO CONTRIBUTE SPECIAL FUND FOR WORK OF IA-HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, PANAMA'S DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE CASTULOVICH REQUESTED BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS AND POSTPONEMENT TO STUDY CLOSELY TO ENSURE AGAINST INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. HE SAID RECENT EXPERIENCE OF HIS COUNTRY WITH ACTIVITIES OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENTS AND LONGSTANDING PROBLEM WITH DISCRIMINATION IN "SO CALLED CANAL ZONE" MADE HIM QUESTION BONA FIDES OF CURRENT OFFER. HE ASKED FOR TEXT OF SENATE AMENDMENT AND MINUTES OF DISCUSSION IN ORDER THAT HE COULD ASCERTAIN TRUE INTENT OF U.S. OFFER.

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2. U.S. DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR A POSTPONEMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT IS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHICH HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATING THE INTENT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NOT THE CONGRESS. HE SAID THAT IF PANAMA HAD ANY QUESTION REGARDING THIS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND UNCOMPLICATED OFFER IT COULD HAVE REQUESTED INFORMATION AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PERMANENT BUDGET COMMITTEE. WHITE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE ANY MATERIALS TO THE OAS MEMBERSHIP AND CIRCULATED THE TEXTS OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AND THE SENATE DISCUSSION.

3. WHITE ADDED THAT THE PROGRAM BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE OAS WAS AN UNUSUAL FORUM FOR RAISING SUBJECT OF PANAMA CANAL BUT THAT HE WOULD LIMIT HIMSELF TO STATING THAT US REMAINED FIRM IN ITS COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE A NEW TREATY IN GOOD FAITH AND WOULD WORK TO PRESERVE CIVIL, HARMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE MEETING THEN TOOK ON A CHARGED ATMOSPHERE WITH THE PANAMANIAN AND PARAGUAYAN CHALLENGING THE RULING OF THE PERUVIAN CHAIRMAN THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSENSUS AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT THE U.S. OFFER WITH THE SOLE EXCEPTION OF A BRAZILIAN QUESTION REGARDING THE USE TO WHICH THE FUNDS WERE TO BE PUT. BRAZIL, BOLIVIA AND VENEZUELA SUPPORTED THE CHAIR.

5. AS CASTULOVICH CLEARLY HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO PURSUE THIS MATTER IN AS DISAGREEABLE WAY AS POSSIBLE, WHITE WITHDREW HIS OBJECTION TO THE POSTPONEMENT. AFTER MORE HEATED EXCHANGES AMONG THE LATIN DELEGATIONS, THE MOTION TO POSTPONE CARRIED. HABIB

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